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before. It was addressed to his subjects in every province (/I// *Universos Provinciales*), and in it the Emperor invited all and sundry to come forward boldly and keep him well informed of any secret plotting of which they happened to be cognisant. No matter how lofty the station of the conspirator might be, whether governor of a province, officer of the army, or even friend and associate of the Emperor, if any one discovered anything he was to tell what he knew, and the Emperor would not be lacking either in gratitude or substantial reward. " Let him come without fear/' ran the edict, "and let him address himself to me! I will listen to all: I will myself conduct the investigation*: and if the accuser does but prove his charge*, I will vindicate my wrongs. Only let him speak boldly and be sure of his case!>^f The hand which wrote this was the hand which had flung unread into the brazier at Nieata the incriminating petitions of the bishops. What had taken place in the interval that he should issue an edict worthy of a Domitian ? The authorities give not the slightest hint. Was there some great conspiracy afoot, in the meshes of which Constantine feared to become entangled, but so cunningly contrived that the Emperor could only be sensible of its existence, without being able to lay hands on the intriguers? Was paganism restless in the East, as we have seen it restless in Rome, at the triumph of its once-despised and always detested rival ? We clo not know. Quite possibly it was, though with the downfall of Lieimus

* *Intrtpidus d **sfcurus** aectt/at s inter fell* t*
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